

Breton

National Wildlife Refuge

photo: USFWS



photo: USFWS



photo: James Harris



photo: USFWS



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Refuge Facts

- Established: 1904.
- Acres: 18,000 in St. Bernard and Plaquemine parishes. 5,000 acres are considered as Class I Wilderness.
- Concentration of redhead ducks with a few canvasbacks and scaups. Largest concentrations of nesting brown pelicans in Louisiana.
- Largest tern colony in the nation. Rookery consisting mostly of reddish egrets. Nesting habitat for various other colonial seabirds. Has small population of magnificent frigate birds.
- Second oldest refuge in the refuge system.
- Refuge consists of barrier islands located in the Gulf of Mexico off the southeast coast of Louisiana.

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Current budget (FY-98) \$46,000. Administered as a part of Delta NWR.
- 100,000 visitors annually. Visitors generated \$10 million in FY 97.

Refuge Objectives

- Provide sanctuary for nesting and wintering seabirds.
- Protect and preserve the wilderness character of the islands.
- Provide sandy beach habitat for a variety of wildlife species.

Management Tools

- Law enforcement.
- Beneficial spoil deposition.
- Nest count surveys.

Public Use Opportunities

- Fishing.
- Photography.
- Camping.
- Bird watching.

Calendar of Events

September: Louisiana Beach Sweep.

Questions and Answers

Is camping allowed on the refuge? If so where?

Yes, primitive camping is allowed on the refuge. However campers are prohibited from camping in areas where birds are nesting.

Can you land a plane or helicopter on the refuge?

No, it is illegal to land a plane on the land. It is legal to land on the water and taxi to the beach, just as a boat would land on the beach.

Where are the best places to fish at the islands?

The surf on the Gulf side and in the cuts between the islands are very good at times. The grass flats on the lee side of the islands are very good at times. There are charter boats operating from the Mississippi Gulf Coast that serve these areas.

Can you do birdwatching and photography on the refuge?

Yes, as long as the refuge signs are obeyed. Entry into the nesting areas and any disturbance of the nesting colonies are prohibited.

How long is the nesting season for the pelicans and terns?

The nesting season is from March through August.